

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society's **EXCITER**



RARS EVENTS:

- The RARS General Membership meeting is the 1st Tuesday of the month.
- The RARS net meets every night @ 8 PM on 146.640.
- The RARS Technical & Trader's net is Saturdays @ 8:30 PM or following the RARS net.
- RARS meets for a monthly dinner on the 2nd Tuesday of each month.

Time to Renew!

Please help us continue to provide quality programs, activities, and events for our club members. One of the ways we do this is through the RARS annual dues. The membership year is July 1-June 30, so it's time to renew!

There are a number of ways to pay your dues.

- Pay at a RARS meeting.
- Mail your dues to the RARS Treasurer:
Greg Seamster
1405 Leanne Court
Raleigh, NC 27606
- Pay online at <http://www.rars.org/joinrars.htm>.
Online payments are made via PayPal to Raleigh_ARSE@earthlink.net.

If there are no data changes to your membership (address, call, license class, etc.), you do not need to fill out a renewal form. The membership form can be downloaded in a PDF format from the website. View your membership status and update data at <http://www.rars.org/only.php>.

Please provide updates for your interest in public service, SKYWARN, and ARES. You are also welcome to renew for multiple years. Thanks! We couldn't do it without you.

Dues

Regular: \$18

Reduced (Under 12 or Over 60): \$12

Associate (Not Licensed): \$9

Each Additional Family Member: \$5

Next RARS Meeting: June 7

7:30 PM: "Field Day 2011" presented by
Jeff Wittich AC4ZO.

RARS OFFICERS:

PRESIDENT

Karl Bowman

W4CHX

919.669.6068

w4chx@arri.net

VICE PRESIDENT

Candy Orr

KJ4OBQ

919-217-7734

cjorr@bellsouth.com

SECRETARY

Charles Swindell

WB4DCM

919.848.0410

wb4dcm@arri.net

TREASURER

Greg Seamster

KE4PAX

919.859.0029

ke4pax@arri.net



The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society, Inc. (RARS) was founded in 1969 and continues to serve and support the amateur radio community in the greater Triangle area. In 1999, the society incorporated a new RARS and obtained 501(c)(3) non-profit tax status.

The objectives of the club are to promote worldwide friendship through amateur radio; to be of public service by providing radio communications in times of disaster, emergency, or civic needs; to educate members in radio technique, and to provide training classes to assist in obtaining amateur radio licenses.

Anyone interested in amateur radio is eligible to apply for membership. Dues for regular licensed amateurs are \$18 per year (from July 1 through June 30). Additional immediate family members pay \$5 each per year. Dues for licensed amateurs older than 59 or younger than 16 are \$12 per year. Dues for non-licensed associate members are \$9 per year. Applications for membership may be obtained from the treasurer or on the RARS website (www.rars.org).



The Exciter

The *Exciter* is the official newsletter of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society. It appears each month as a PDF on the RARS website at www.rars.org. Members receive email notification when the latest version is available. Please provide your email address to the Treasurer.

The *Exciter* welcome articles, advertisements, and other contributions. To submit a piece to the newsletter, please contact the Editor.

The views expressed in the *Exciter* are those of the individual authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editor or RARS.

The Editor reserves the right to edit any and all pieces.

The submission deadline for each month's *Exciter* is the third Friday of the preceding month. All submissions must be final. Drafts are not accepted.

Editor: Courtney Enzor KI4HOS (editor@rars.org)

RARS General Meeting

Date: First Tuesday of each month

Location: First Alliance Church

4400 Buffaloe Road

Raleigh, NC

Time: People begin arriving at 7 PM. The meeting officially begins at 7:30 PM.

RARS Monthly Dinner

Join us on the 2nd Tuesday of each month for the RARS dinner. It's open to everyone: RARS members, non-members, friends, and family – feel free to bring your little ones! Dinner begins at 6:30 pm.

Listen to the nightly RARS net and check www.rars.org for details on the next dinner's location.

RARS Repeaters in Raleigh

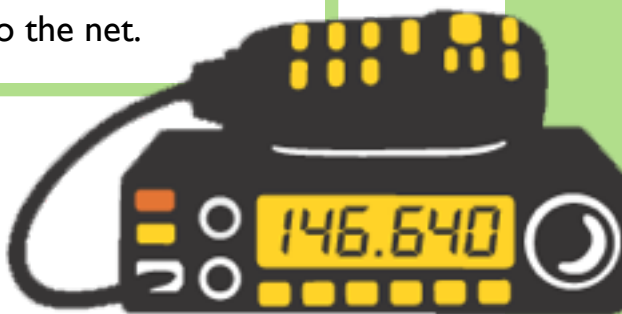
146.640 & 443.625 (88.5 PL)

Join us for the nightly RARS net @ 8 PM on the 146.640. All hams holding a Technician class license or higher are invited to check in. We welcome both RARS and non-RARS member to the net.

VE TESTING

The RARS VEs will accept walk-in testing at the February, May, August, and November RARS meetings; the RARSFest in April; the Cary Swapfest in July; the JARSFest in November; and following RARS license classes.

Please bring a photo ID, your current license, a copy of your current license, your \$15 exam fee, and any CSCEs you have for credit. Visit www.rars.org for more information.



April Birthdays

Dan	AC8DH	6/1
Bob	K1RCB	6/1
Dawn	KD4EVV	6/3
Gwen	KF4EUT	6/5
Rick	N4VQT	6/7
Kelly	AE4FG	6/8
Harold	KJ4HTA	6/9
David	W4OTO	6/10
Will Dunlop		6/10
Charles	NZ0I	6/11
Wayne	KD4SLQ	6/19
Steve	KA8HXX	6/21
William	W4AK	6/21
Bobbie	KD4ZVV	6/22
Lanny	K1LEC	6/24
Marian	K1MRB	6/24
Bill	KF4REC	6/26
Ron	KJ4ROP	6/27

New RARS Members

Zacl Alexander	KK4CCW
Howard Dickson, Jr.	W9AAH
Lisa Dorencamp	
Ross Graham	KK4BVP
Scott Greenough	KK4BVQ
Dave Jespersen	N1XIE
Greg Keys	KK4BVT
David Mainesmith	AB4MB
Alex Pasetes	KK4CAZ
Paul Stroud	AA4XX
Lyn Williams	WA4GEH

Upcoming Hamfests

- 5/28 DurHamFest
Bahama, NC
<http://dfmanc.org/>
- 6/4 Georgia State Convention
Marietta, GA
<http://talipsky.com/AtlantaHamfest/>
- 6/11 Winston-Salem Classic Hamfest
Winston-Salem, NC
<http://www.arrl.org/hamfests/>
- 6/11 Knoxville Hamfest & Electronics (TN Conv.)
Knoxville, TN
<http://w4bbb.org/HamfestFlyer2011.pdf>
- 6/12 Manassas Hamfest
Manassas, VA
<http://www.w4ovh.net/>
- 6/18 20th Down East Hamfest
Kinston, NC
<http://www.downeasthamfest.org/>

April 2011

RARS Net Reports

Checkins: 610
Traffic: 35/20
Minutes: 595
Sessions: 30

Special Interest Nets:

Checkins: 80
Minutes: 320
Sessions: 9

Attention Seasoned Hams!

Announcement by Chuck Littlewood K4HF, ARRL Liaison

The Quarterly Century Wireless Association Piedmont Chapter 126 will hold its second quarter luncheon meeting June 11 at 12:30pm at The Classic Restaurant, 60 S Main St, Denton, NC. The phone number is 336-859-5494. All MEMBERS and GUESTS are welcome. Our guest speaker will be Ken Simpson, W8EK of Ocala, FL who will give us a program about "Wireless Museums from Florida to Alaska." More info on our organization is available at: <http://www.qcwa.org/> and for the local Piedmont Chapter: <http://www.qsl.net/qcwa126/>. Local Raleigh contacts are Chuck K4HF, Charlie WB4DCM, and several other RARS Members.



New Location & Time for Weekly ARES Net

Article by John Snellen AI4RT, Wake County ARES EC

Effective Thursday, May 5th, the ARES Training Net will meet on the 146.64 RARS Repeater at 8:30 pm.

The training net is moving from the 146.88 repeater in order to free air time on that repeater for other emcomm and weather functions and lessen the vulnerability of an amateur radio communications blackout in the event of a major infrastructure failure in our county. By spreading out the amateur radio emcomm communications resources among various repeaters located on different towers, we will improve our ability to be available when needed.

In the near future, Wake County ARES will be adding additional back-up repeaters on both 2 meter and 70 cm bands located in various areas of Wake County. Check the Wake Co. ARES website for continuing updates, www.wakeares.org.

President's Corner

Column by Karl Bowman Karl W4CHX, RARS President

I had a great time at the last RARS Dinner! About 15 RARS members gathered at the newly-remodeled Golden Corral near Crabtree Valley Mall for good food and great conversation. The restaurant has a small, separate dining room that we use, and even though it is shared with other groups, it is a very good setting for a relaxed meal. As one could imagine, the discussions are wide-ranging, and not limited to ham radio. At this dinner, I met a RARS member that is usually unable to attend evening meetings and learned a little bit about commercial vehicle sales. Thanks, Lanny K1LEC! Obviously, it was great to get updates from the regular attendees, as well. If you have not participated in a RARS Dinner, please consider adding it to your schedule. It's OK to bring your family or a non-member. The RARS Dinner is held on the second Tuesday of each month, at 6:30 PM, at the Golden Corral restaurant, 6129 Glenwood Ave, approximately 1 mile west of Crabtree Valley Mall. See you there!

Field Day (June 25 and 26) will soon be here! Volunteers are needed for set up, operations, and tear down; and, David KF4VXJ will need assistance with picking up donated items prior to Field Day. If you can help, please contact Bob W4TTX, our Field Day Chair, or David KF4VXJ. Finally, please do not forget that there are many upcoming public service events, particularly during June. Visit the RARS website or contact John AI4RT at ai4rt@hotmail.com to volunteer for these public service events.

Got Cards? Card Checking Availability

Announcement by Bill McDowell K4CIA, DXCC Field Checker

I will be checking DX cards at the Down East Hamfest on June 18th at Kinston, NC (<http://downeasthamfest.org/>). DXCC, WAS, WAC and VUCC, as well as CQ Awards, can be checked. Please bring all paperwork properly filled out and cards sorted as applicable.

Feel free to contact me with any questions in advance via email or phone: k4cia at earthlink dot net or 919-846-2317.

Minutes of April 19, 2011 RARS Board Meeting

Present: Karl Bowman W4CHX, Bob Starkenburg W4TTX, Chuck Littlewood K4HF, Candy Orr KJ4OBQ, Greg Seamster KE4PAX, Selene Montgomery KG4RMT, Hank Montgomery K4HM, Jack Foster N6UYB, John Snellen AI4RT, Charles Swindell WB4DCM

Visitors: David Crawford KF4VXJ, Chuck deCourt W3WZN.

Apologies: Ken McEwen KI4OTO, Courtney Enzor KI4HOS, Don Downs WA4AVU, Gary Pearce KN4AQ, Virginia Enzor NC4VA.

- 1) Call to order (Karl W4CHX): The meeting was called to order at 7:07 PM by President Karl W4CHX.
- 2) Approval of minutes (Karl W4CHX and Charles WB4DCM): The minutes of the March 15, 2011 meeting of the RARS Board were approved.
- 3) Vice President (C J KJ4OBQ): VP "CJ" KJ4OBQ reported that the May program will be presented by Don Downs WA4AVU on APRS. The June meeting program will be on Field Day and we have programs lining up for QRP and Radio Grams
- 4) Treasurer's report (Greg KE4PAX): Greg KE4PAX reported that RARS now has 285 members as compared to 258 this time last year. We have 40 members from last year that have not renewed their membership. There are still funds in the Dick Bitner Fund.
- 5) Secretary's report (Charles WB4DCM): Charles WB4DCM reminded everyone to sign the register.
- 6) Committee reports:
 - a) Public Service Director (John AI4RT): John AI4RT reported that we have lots of public service opportunities this summer. Please check the web site. There are 5 or 6 between now and July 4.
 - b) Public Information Officer (Gary KN4AQ): No report.
 - c) Education Director (Virginia NC4VA): No report.
 - d) Field Day Chair (Bob W4TTX): Bob W4TTX reported that letters have been sent to several elected office holders inviting them to come by the Field Day site. Bob has written an article for the EXCITER. The Field Day Net will

(Continued on next page)

be re-implemented soon. Just in case, he is looking at alternative locations for Field Day.

e) FM Repeater Chair (Gary KN4AQ): Gary KN4AQ was not present but had sent an email to the Board. It was decided to discuss the repeater project as part of the 2011/2012 budget discussion.

f) RARSfest Chair (John AI4RT): John AI4RT advised that they had held the last RARSfest meeting and that everything seems to be in order and ready for RARSfest. Ticket presales are greater this year than in previous years. So far, they have rented 230 vendor tables with more vendors. We will have twice as many booths as previously.

g) Exciter Chair (Courtney KI4HOS): Courtney KI4HOS was not present but had sent an email to report thanking everyone for the recent increase in article submissions (Keep 'em coming!); and, it was suggested that someone should write up an article on RARSfest.

h) Hospitality Chair (Mary Jo K4MJL): No report.

i) Net Manager (Mary KG4OQA): No report.

j) ARRL Liaison (Chuck K4HF): Chuck K4HF reported that we will have several visitors from ARRL HQ at our RARSFest.

k) At-Large Director (Don WA4AVU): No report.

l) At-Large Director (Ken KI4OTO): No report.

m) At-Large Director (Jack N6UYB): No report.

n) RARSVE Coordinators (Joe WA4GIR and Liz KO4CK): No report.

o) RARS Web Master (Hank K4HM): Hank K4HM reported that the hamfest page is complete. Online sales of tables was cut off one week prior to the fest.

7) Old Business:

a) Followup on agenda items introduced by Bob KB4RGC (Ken KI4OTO): Since both individuals were not present, this item will wait until next time.

b) Board of Directors job descriptions (Hank K4HM): No report.

c) Field Day 2011: Donations and in-kind services project (David KF4VXJ): David KF4VXJ advised that he has contacted Whole Foods and has not received a rejection yet---this is a positive sign. He has contacted other vendors for donations and is looking for a supply of hot dogs.

d) Bereavement donations (Greg KE4PAX): No report.

e) RARS participation in Maker Faire, Saturday, June 18, 2011 (Ken KI4OTO): Ken KI4OTO was not present but the assumption is that he and Justin AJ4MJ will participate in this event.

(Continued on next page)

8) New Business:

- a) Establishment of an awards committee(Karl W4CHX): Karl W4CHX stated that this committee would monitor the good works of RARS members and follow through on appropriate awards. Upon motion and second, this matter was tabled until later.

9) Budget (Greg KE4PAX): Basically, the budget for next fiscal year is flat and follows along with the current years' budget except for additional funds being added to the capital projects line item. The additional spending for the new repeater project will result in a negative budget for 2011/2012. The budget will be finalized at the May Board meeting and presented to the membership in June for approval.

10) Any other business: there was no other business to come before the Board.

11) Board member comments:

- a) CJ KJ4OBQ commented that the Skywarn net was run very professionally and a credit to amateur radio.
- b) Hank K4HM commented that he receives emails from other web sites wanting to exchange links but he checks them out before agreeing but he rejects most of the request because the sites are typically for gambling or other activities that are not in any way related to Amateur Radio and frequently are just advertisements.
- c) Chuck K4HF reminded everyone that we are the hosts for the RARSfest and to extend any service to attendees.
- d) John AI4RT commented that he still needed more volunteers.
- e) Jack N6UYB advised that we will have a special events station, N4C. He is loaning a 55 foot tower to be used for the antenna.
- f) Greg KE4PAX inquired as to how to handle admission tickets for those folks who receive complementary booths at the RARSfest.
- g) Karl W4CHX reported receiving a phone call from ARES in Tennessee wanting to copy our repeater operating guide on the web. He referred them to Gary KN4AQ.
- h) David KF4VXJ (visitor) advised that he will need assistance moving stuff to the Field Day site.

12) Adjournment (Karl W4CHX): the meeting was adjourned at 8:28 PM.

Minutes of May 3, 2011 RARS Meeting

- 1) Call to order: The meeting was called to order at 7:30PM by President Karl W4CHX. There were 60 members and guests in attendance.
- 2) Approval of minutes: The Minutes of the RARS General Membership meeting of April 5, 2011 were approved as written.
- 3) Vice President's report (C J Orr KJ4OBQ): The VP's report is included with the program introductions.
- 4) Treasurer's report (Greg KE4PAX): Treasurer Greg KE4PAX was not present.
- 5) Announcements (Karl W4CHX):
 - a) RARS Dinner: second Tuesday, (5/10/11), 6:30PM, Golden Corral, 6129 Glenwood Avenue (Highway 70) monitor the 146.64 repeater on Tuesday (5/10/11) for any update information.
 - b) RARS Board meeting: third Tuesday (5/17/11), 7:00PM, Triangle Radio Reading Service, 211 E. Six Forks Rd, Suite 103; any RARS member is welcome to attend. For more information, contact any RARS officer.
 - c) After meeting gathering: Depending on the time of the program completion: Applebee's, Six Forks Rd and Wake Forest Rd (by the Costco).
 - d) Maker Faire: Maker Faire will be held on Saturday, June 18th in the Kerr Scott Building, NC State Fairgrounds. Maker Faire is an annual event that tends to attract "do it yourself" people. The event is affiliated with Make magazine, a publication for individuals that like to build items, either new or using previously used items. RARS has been invited to join DMFA and OCRA in sponsoring a table at Maker Faire: examples of items to be displayed could include kit radios, a learning to solder station, etc. It has been noted that the individuals attracted to Maker Faire are likely to be individuals that should be recruited to become involved in amateur radio. Presently, Ken KI4OTO and Justin AJ4MJ have expressed interest in Maker Faire. Please contact them if you are interested in participating in Maker Faire.

(Continued on next page)

e) Guests: Bill KJ4MNZ, Sean Thompson KK4BVL, Marvin (no call listed), David Mainesmith AB4MB, Terry Rogers WA4BVY, Ross Graham (new member) KK4BVP.

f) Hamfest: Dayton Hamvention May 20th-22nd; Durham May 28th; and Reidsville May 14, Spartanburg, SC May 21st.

6) Reports from RARS Board members and others:

a) John Snelling AI4RT: In his absence, President Karl W4CHX made the following announcements:

- i. A big "Thank You" for all those that volunteered their time to help this be a very successful RARSFest.
- ii. We sold more tickets than last year.
- iii. Expenses are still being collected, so I do not know at this time how our gross revenues vs expenses .
- iv. We have received a great deal of positive feedback from our vendors, dealers and attendees.
- v. We learned a lot this year that will help in our efforts for next year.
- vi. We will have some Team Leader slots opening for next year... anyone wishing to help out in those important spots, please let John know.
- vii. The volunteers picnic is scheduled for Saturday, May 21 (the same weekend as Dayton). Ken (KI4OTO) and Kay McEwen are the coordinators. Ken KI4OTO then took the floor and advised that the picnic will be at Lake Crabtree at the White Oak Pavilion. There is a limit of 50 people, so sign up now!!! Other activities, other than eating, include paddle boats, horseshoes, fishing, and volley ball. Noon until dark, but the food (hamburgers, hot dogs, and possibly other items, will be served at 2:00 PM. You may contact Ken at 919.270.8773.
- viii. A Hot Wash or Postmortem of the RARSFest will be held on Monday, May 23 at 7:00 PM at the Triangle Radio Reading Service.
- ix. Thanks again to all our volunteers for helping make RARSFest what it is.

b) John AI4RT: In addition, John advises that volunteers are needed for many public service events. Please go to the RARS website and volunteer.

c) John AI4RT: Announced that Wake County ARES is moving its net from the 146.88 repeater to the 146.64 repeater effective Thursday, May 5.

(Continued on next page)

- d) Bob W4TTX: Is Field Day Chair and advised that Field Day is the last weekend in June (25 & 26). It will again be held at the Carroll's farm. Set up will begin at 2:00 PM on Friday and we will have a supper following set up. This year we will have a GOTA station as well as the usual HF,VHF and UHF operating on voice, CW, and digital. There will be supper on Saturday night and lunch on Sunday. Go to the RARS webpage and sign up.
- e) Gary KN4AQ FM Repeater Chair: Our 145.13 (tone of 82.5) will be moved to the RTP and linked to the 146.64 repeater. This operation is being undertaken because of the poor coverage of the RTP area by the 64 repeater. He is unsure of the timeline, but hopes that it will be complete in mid-summer.

7) Any other business:

- a) Steve KA8HXX reminded everyone of the Youth DXpedition Adventure and the fund raising that goes with it.

8) Drawing: The winners were Dick WW4NC, Paul AA4XX, and Neal N4HAF.

9) Program: VP CJ KJ4OBQ announced that the June program will be Jeff AC4ZO on More Than Just Field Day. She thanked Steve KJ4BX and Jack N6UYB for providing the audio and video. Don WA4AVU was introduced. His program was on APRS. Rather than give us all the technical stuff so that we could immediately go out and do APRS, Don provided information about the APRS system and several alternatives for equipment to become involved. Did you know that RARS has several APRS systems available for members to check out and use? Don did an excellent job of providing basic information without putting us to sleep!!! Good job, Don.

10) Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:48 PM by Karl W4CHX.

Local Amateur Radio Nets

Join us every evening at 8 PM on the 146.640 repeater for the **RARS Two-Meter Net**. You can give a ragchew, check in and out (this counts for our total numbers reported to the ARRL!), make announcements, and pass traffic. We also offer National Traffic System traffic training. All licensed stations are welcome to participate in the net as often as they can. This net is also a great way to learn about amateur radio if you are newly licensed!

Central Carolina SKYWARN

Please join us each Tuesday @ 9:15 PM on the 146.880 repeater for the CCS net. On each net there are announcements, check-ins by county, and often a program or training spot. Check us out at www.centralcarolinaskywarn.net.

The **PCTN (Piedmont Costal Traffic Net)** meets every night at 9 PM on the 146.880. The purpose of the net is to handle/pass NTS formal messages. Amateur stations are encouraged to check in and participate. The backup repeater is the 147.105 (PL tone 82.5).

The **Wake County ARES Net** meets Thursdays around 8:30 PM on the 146.640 repeater. We provide discussion training for the implementation and provision of emergency communications for our served agencies, such as the American

Red Cross and the local and state Emergency Operations Center. Please join us. For more information, check out www.wakeares.org.

Please join us on the **Carolina 440 Net** every Monday night at 7:30 PM. This ragchew net utilizes the Carolina 440 UHF Link Repeater System. Comprised of the Raleigh, Down East, and Coastal Wilmington link systems, there are currently 19 repeaters on the system, covering 21,168 square miles. For a list of these repeaters, please visit www.carolina440.net.

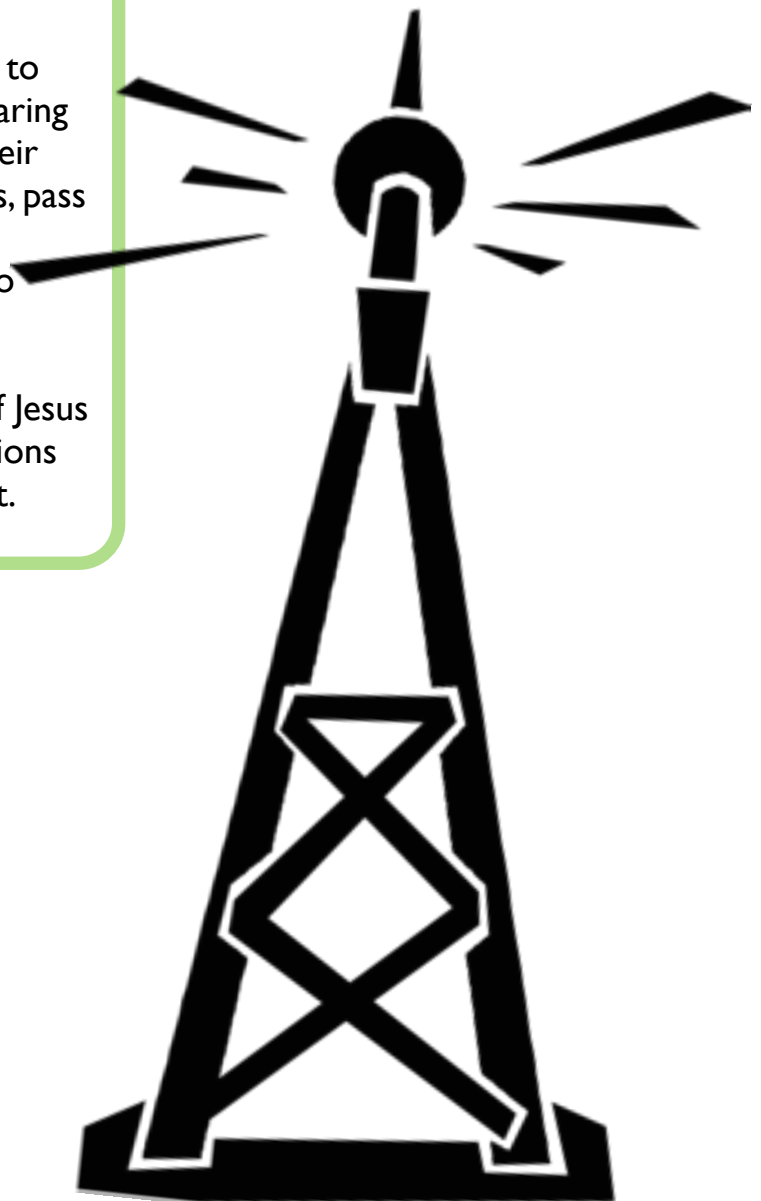
Local Amateur Radio Nets

The **RARS Technical & Trader's Net** is held on Saturday evenings on the 146.640 at 8:30 PM.

Apex Emergency Response Communications Net

This net meets weekly each Sunday evening @ 9 PM on the 146.640 repeater. The purpose of the net is to assist ham radio operators in preparing to respond to emergencies, test their equipment, improve operating skills, pass traffic, and to provide those with a common interest an opportunity to meet. The Apex ERC Net provides amateur radio emergency communications for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. All stations are invited to participate in this net.

The **VOIP Hurricane Net** is held Sundays at 00:00 UTC on the 146.775 repeater with a tone of 88.5 (IRLP node 4260). For information about activation details, go to www.voipwx.net.



RARS Classifieds

Looking to add a new radio to your shack? Have an antenna for sale? Browse the RARS classifieds for new and used radio equipment at <http://rars.org/classifieds.php>.

RARS members are welcome to post notices about equipment they are selling. Posts last for 30 days and are editable at any time.

Using our classifieds is a great way for buyers to search for available items and for sellers to reach a local, targeted audience.

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society's

EXCITER

Raleigh Amateur Radio Society, Inc.
PO Box 17124
Raleigh, NC 27619

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION
US POSTAGE PAID
RALEIGH, NC
PERMIT NO. 2130